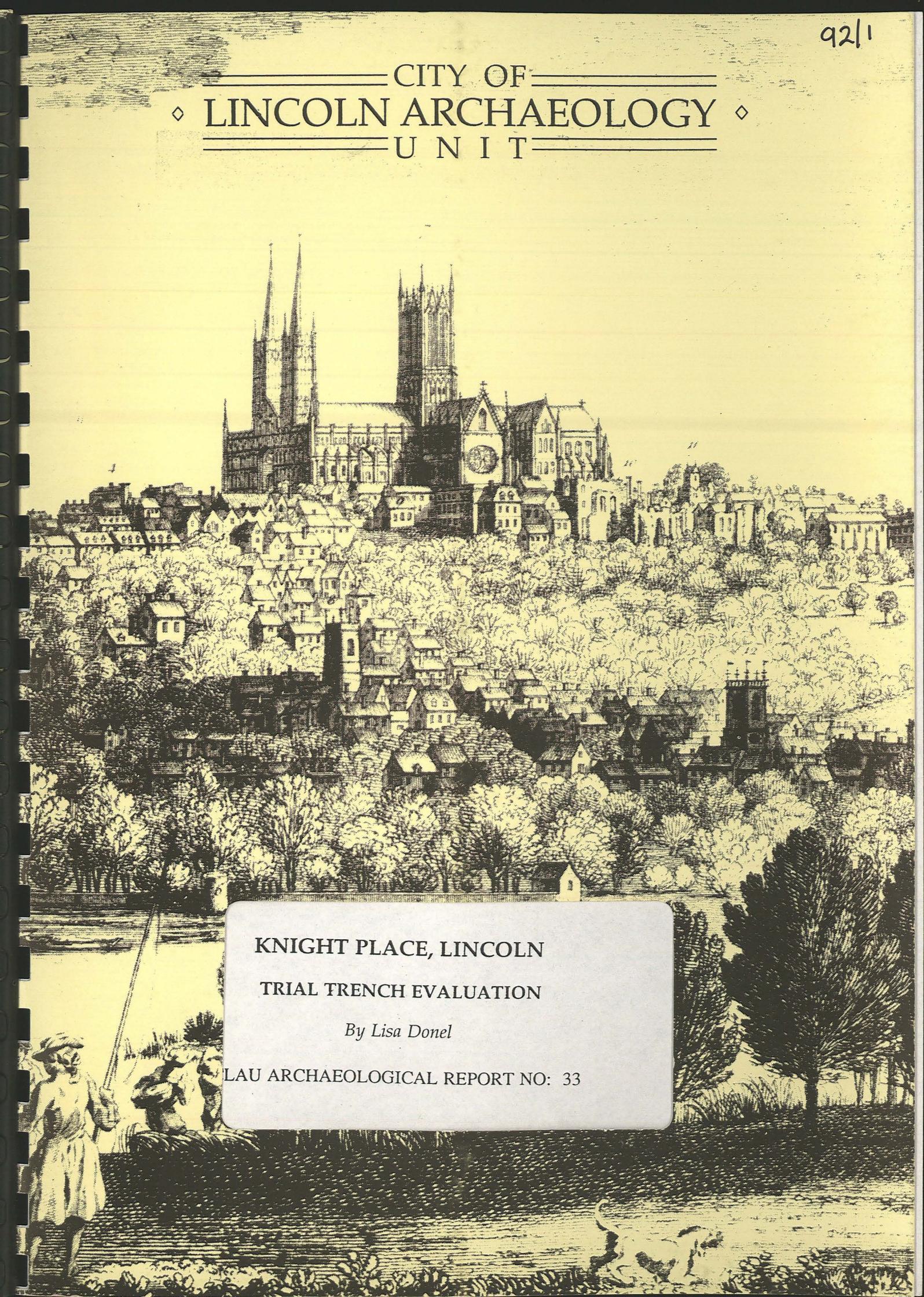


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



KNIGHT PLACE, LINCOLN
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

By Lisa Donel

LAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 33

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A Report to John Roberts Architects Limited

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KNIGHT PLACE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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KNIGHT PLACE TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

As a response to recommendations contained in the preliminary archaeological appraisal, The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by John Roberts Architects Ltd. on behalf of Longhurst Housing Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the development of land between Knight Place, Lincoln and the Sincil Dyke. The work was carried out on Wednesday 4th, November 1992.

This document in summarising the process and results of the investigation will be used in support of a planning application in accordance with the recommendations outlined in DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) published in November 1990 and Archaeology and Planning in Lincoln - A Developers Guide, planning advice note 16, Lincoln City Council (1990).

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its Members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Unit's Article of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and The Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

LOCATION

Located approximately 175m. E. of the High St., the site lies immediately west and alongside the modern Sincil Dyke. The archaeological potential of this area is evidenced by the known line of the Roman Ermine St., the site's location in the Medieval suburb of Wigford and the close position of Bar Gate and its associated walls.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The investigation was carried out to:

1. identify the depth, nature and condition of survival of any archaeological remains in the area of proposed development.
2. assess the importance of any remains encountered.
3. assess the probable impact of development on surviving remains in terms of proposed foundation design and recommend appropriate modifications which would enhance the preservation of remains in situ.
4. assess the need for further archaeological excavation or recording prior to, or during the construction phase, recommend the appropriate course of action and provide a cost estimate for such work.
5. advise the developer's consulting engineer on the nature of the ground conditions.

Four trial trenches were mechanically excavated in the locations shown in Fig. 1. Detailed recording of the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and archaeological features was undertaken by both graphic and photographic means, and artefactual material was collected for analysis and dating.

RESULTS

TRENCH 1 (12.0m. long x 1.0m. wide x 1.5-2.0m. deep)

Trial Trench 1 running E-W was located at the N. end of the site. There was no evidence of any building rubble in this area although part of a brick structure was uncovered at the E. end of the trench.

The earliest deposits identified were a light cream sand(119) at the E. end of the trench and an orange sand/clay(117) at the W. end. (117) had been cut by a large ditch like feature(104) which was filled by a deposit of light grey/brown sandy clay with silt material and limestone fragments(106). Lying along the slope of the cut at the W. end was a series of flat laid limestones which may have acted as a form of revetment for a possible bank(Fig.2). To the E. this feature was cut by a brick wall(118) which also cut the natural sand(119). There was no evidence of a return for the cut of feature(104), this probably having been destroyed by the insertion of the brick wall. The deposits were subsequently sealed by a layer of dark grey sandy soil(100)(Fig.3).

TRIAL TRENCH 2 (12.0m long x 1.0m wide x 1.5-2.0m deep)

The earliest layers examined were a series of orange/yellow/black sands(112),(114),(115). To the E. of these sands layer (106) was once again present. sealing both the sands and (106) was a deposit of orange sandy clay(111) which was subsequently cut by two brick walls; (113) to the E. and (116)to the W. A layer of dark grey sandy soil(100) subsequently sealed both the clay layer and the walls(Fig.4).

TRIAL TRENCH 3 (7.6m long x 1.0m wide x 1.5m deep)

The earliest layers examined in this trench were a yellow sandy clay with limestone fragments(107) at the W. end and a light cream sand(108) at the E. Both these layers had been cut by a deep ditch like feature(104) which was filled by a mid. dark grey/brown sandy clay with some silt and limestone fragments(106). Sealing this was a dark grey sandy soil mixed with brick rubble(100). At the E. end cutting (100) was a N-S cable trench(Fig.5).

TRIAL TRENCH 4 (6.4m long x 1.0m wide x 1.5-2.0m deep)

Trial trench 4 was excavated E-W at the S. end of the site. The earliest layers uncovered were orange/black/yellow sands(101),(102) which were cut by a

deep ditch like feature(104) which had two fills. The earliest was a mid grey clay with limestone fragments(106) which was subsequently sealed by a light brown sandy clay (103). As in Trial Trench 1 the cut line appeared to have been lined with flat laid limestones(105) possibly acting as a form of bank revetment. (103) was sealed by a dark grey sandy soil(100) mixed with some brick rubble which was subsequently cut by brick wall (120) at the E. end of the trench(Fig.6).

DATING

Few finds were recovered. These included some pieces of pot and clay pipe. However, those that were retrieved do give an indication of a C17th date for the fill of the ditch like feature.

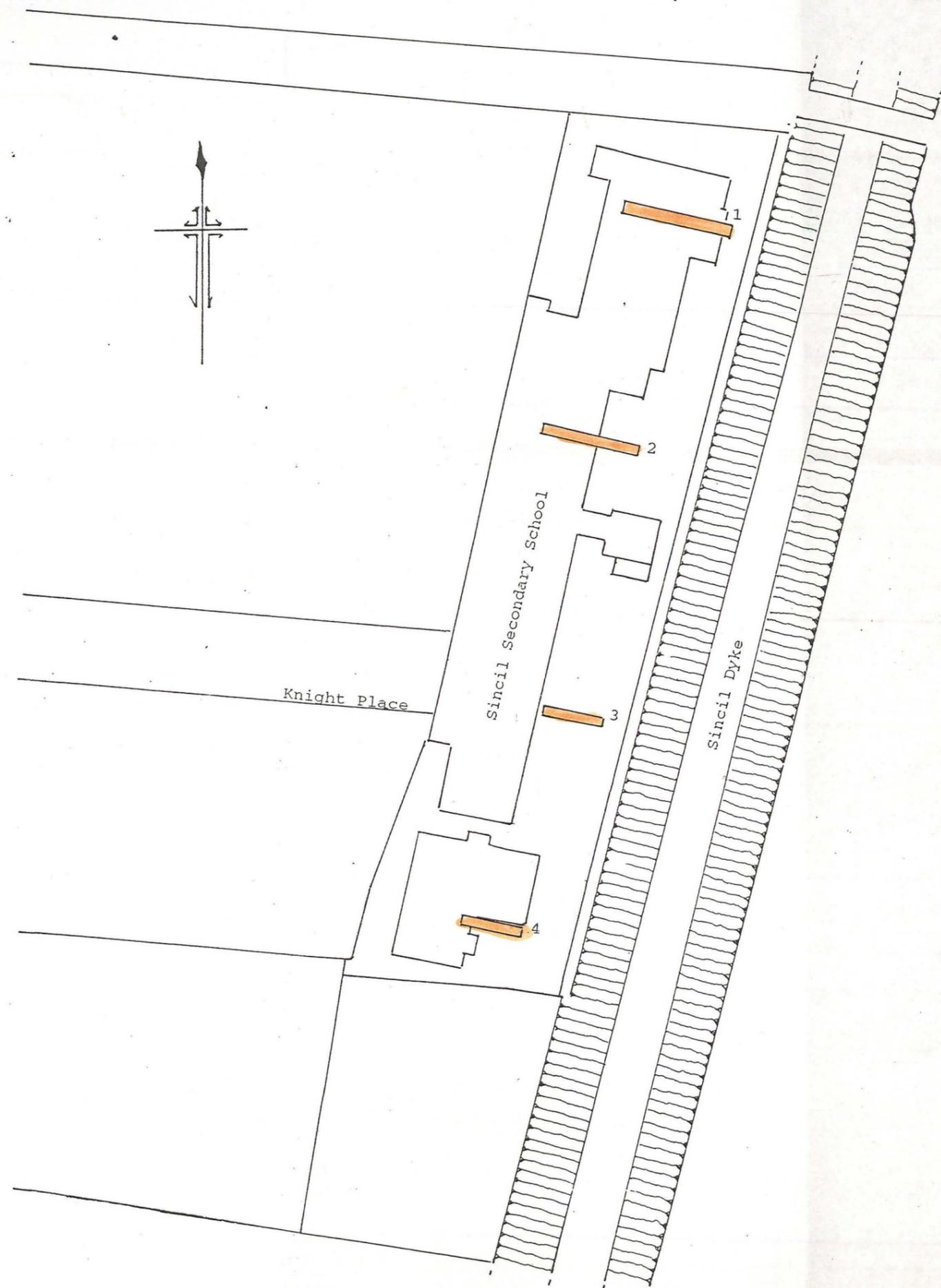
CONCLUSIONS

It is possible that the ditch like feature found running N-S across the site represents early drainage activity which has subsequently gone out of use and been backfilled in the C18th. An earlier line of the Sincil Dyke cannot be discounted(Fig.7). Though no evidence of in situ silting was seen in the trenches, it is possible that this evidence might be found at a greater depth which in this case will not be disturbed by subsequent development. The original dyke may have been unable to cope with the needs of a growing city and therefore, was backfilled and a wider channel cut in its present position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

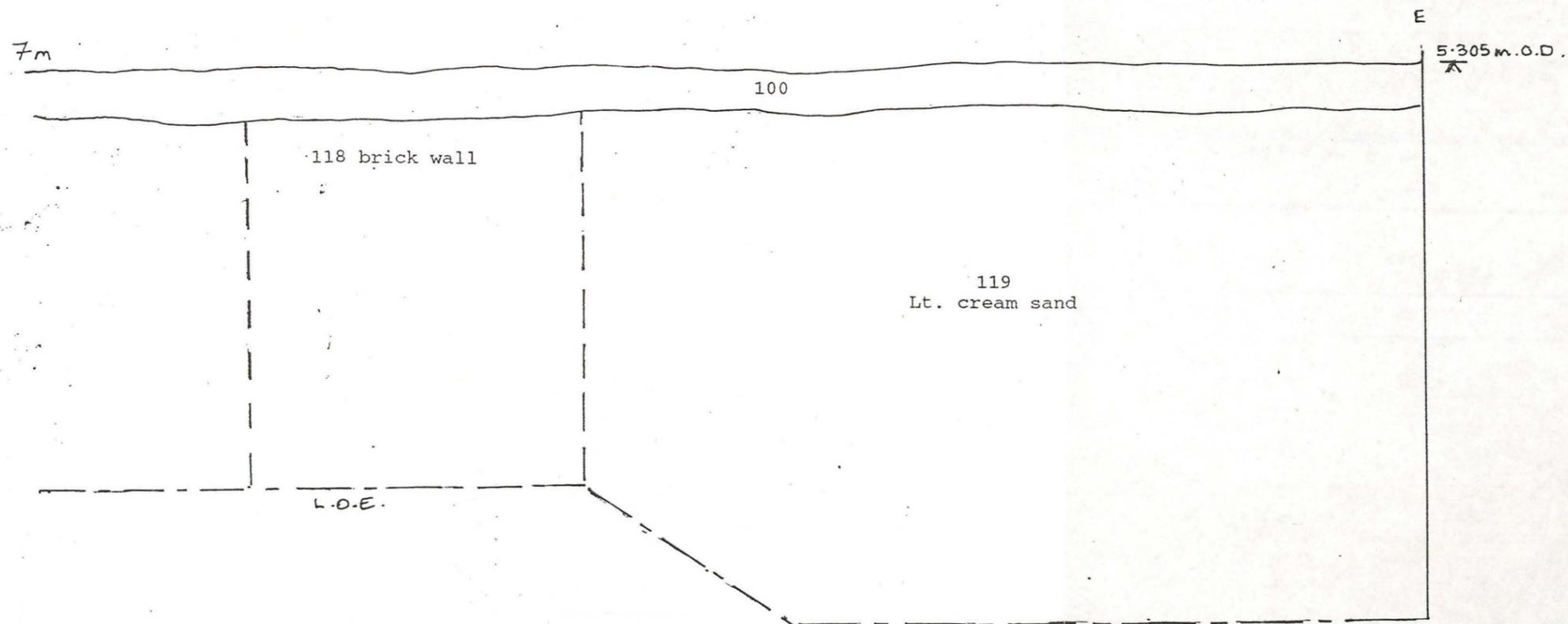
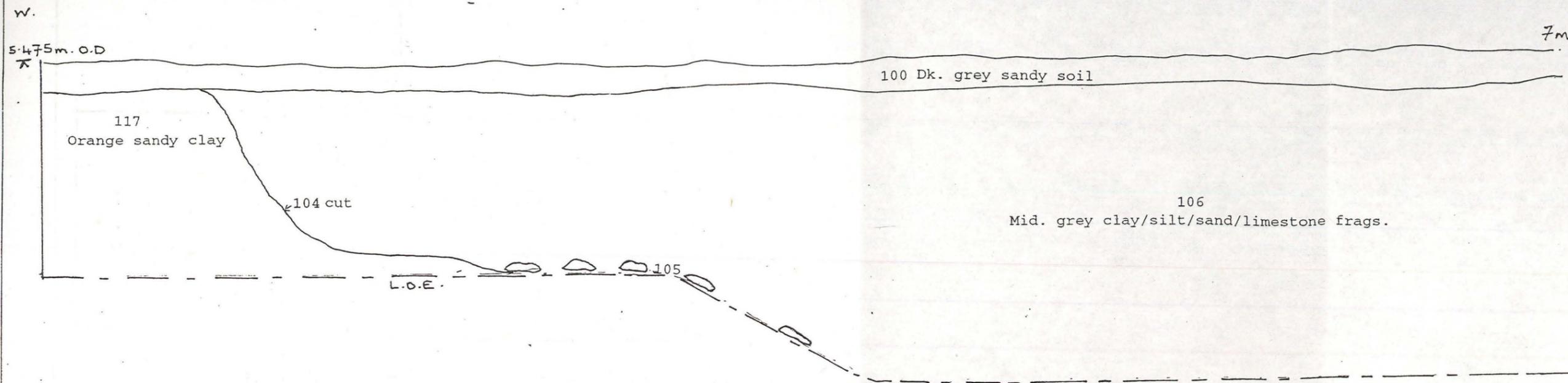
Although the significance of the line of a possible earlier Sincil Dyke is important, there were no other significant stratified archaeological deposits uncovered in the trial trenches. The nature of the foundation trenches, at the stated depth of 1.2m- 1.5m for the development, does not pose a threat to archaeological deposits. Therefore, there does not, in this case, appear to be the need for any further archaeological investigation prior to or during the development works. Should the foundation design change this response would need to be re-assessed in the light of that new information.

L Donel



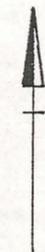
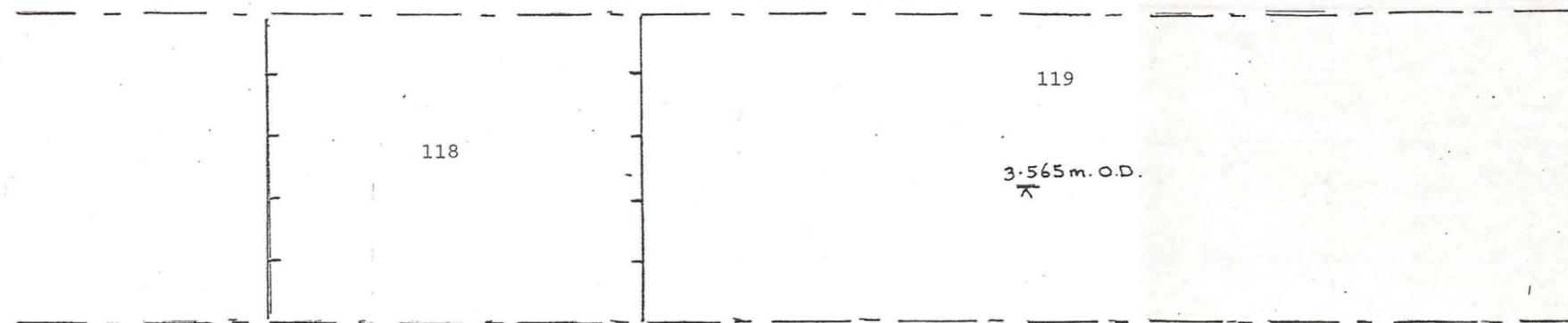
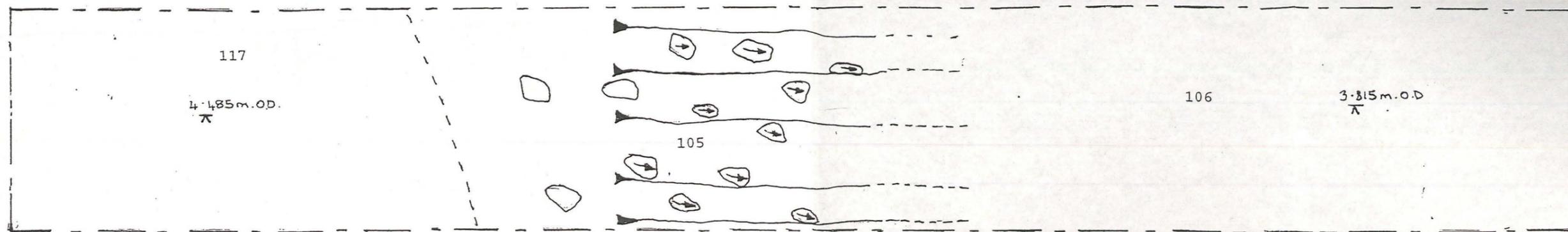
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fig.1



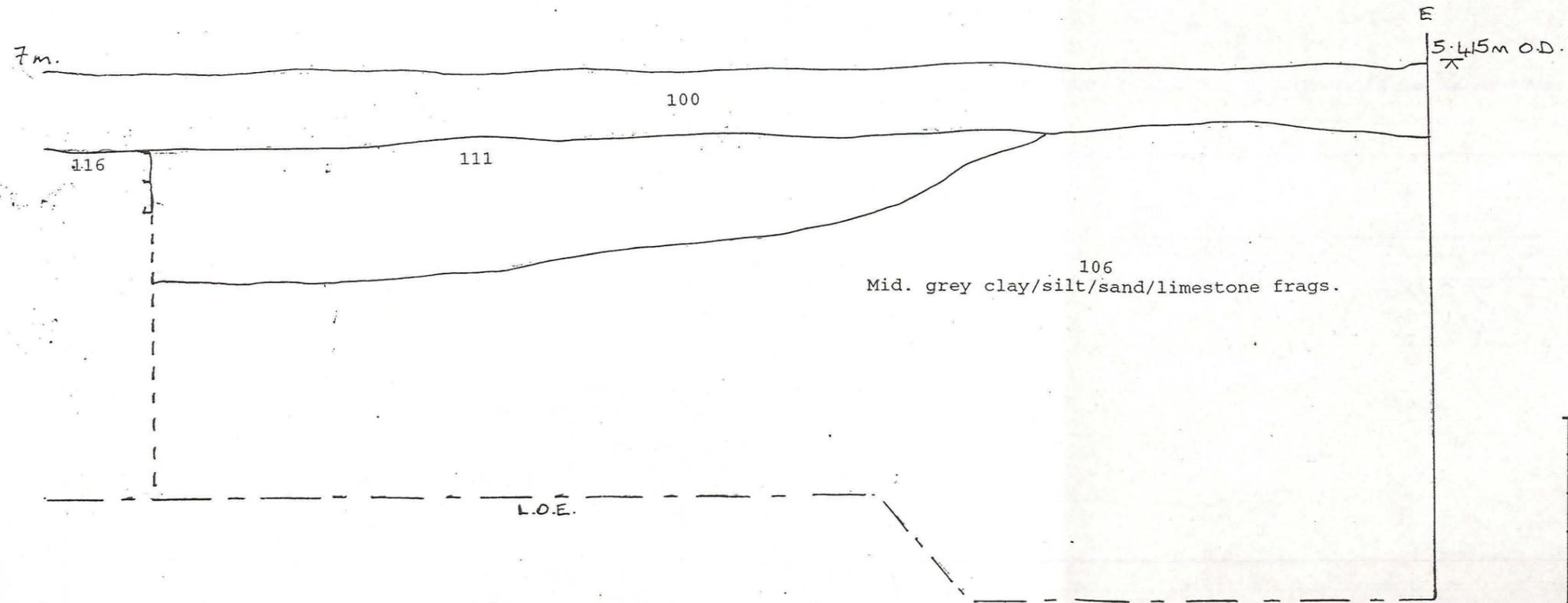
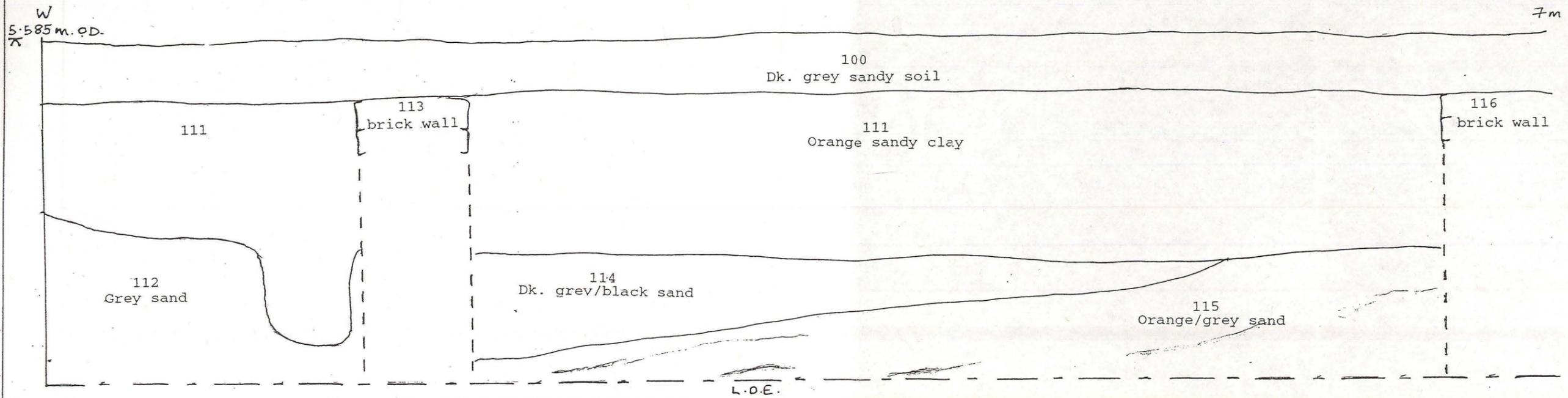
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fig.2

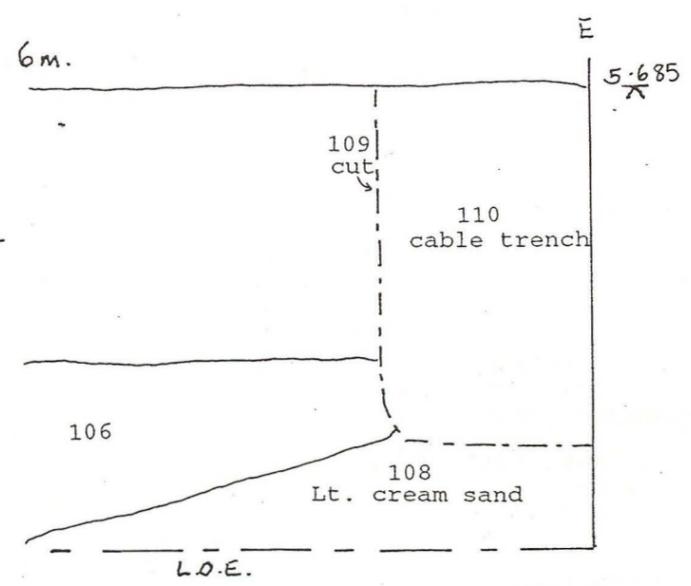
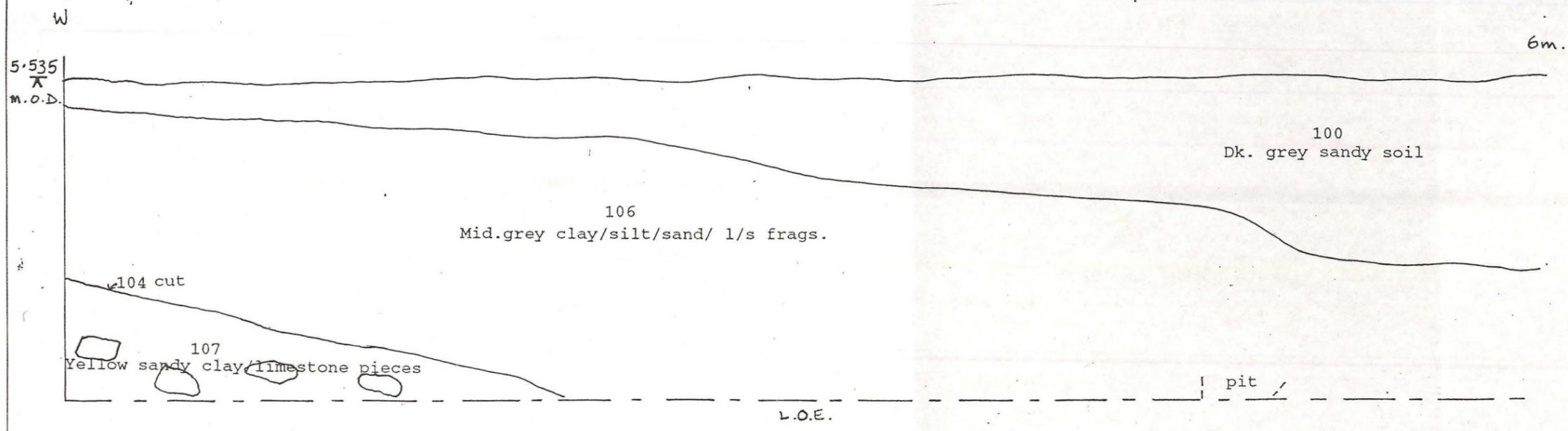


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SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
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fig.3

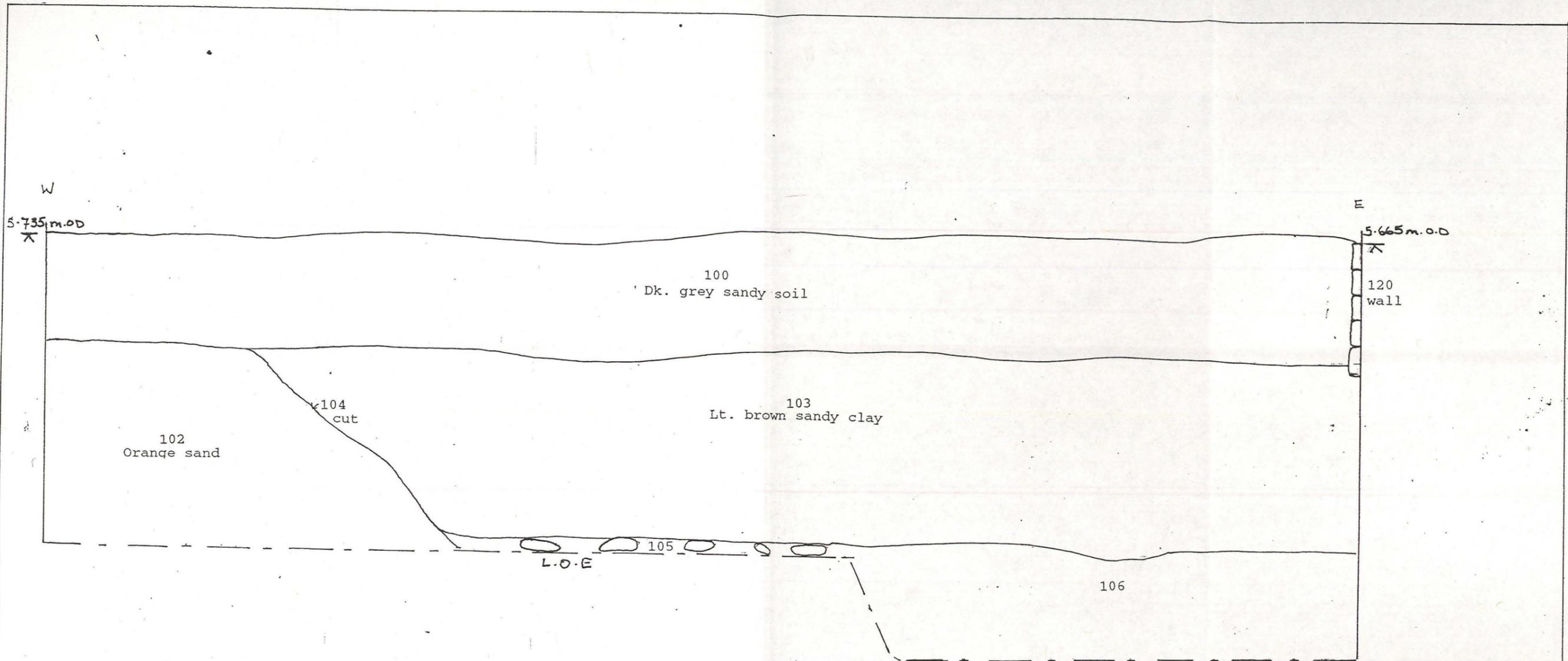


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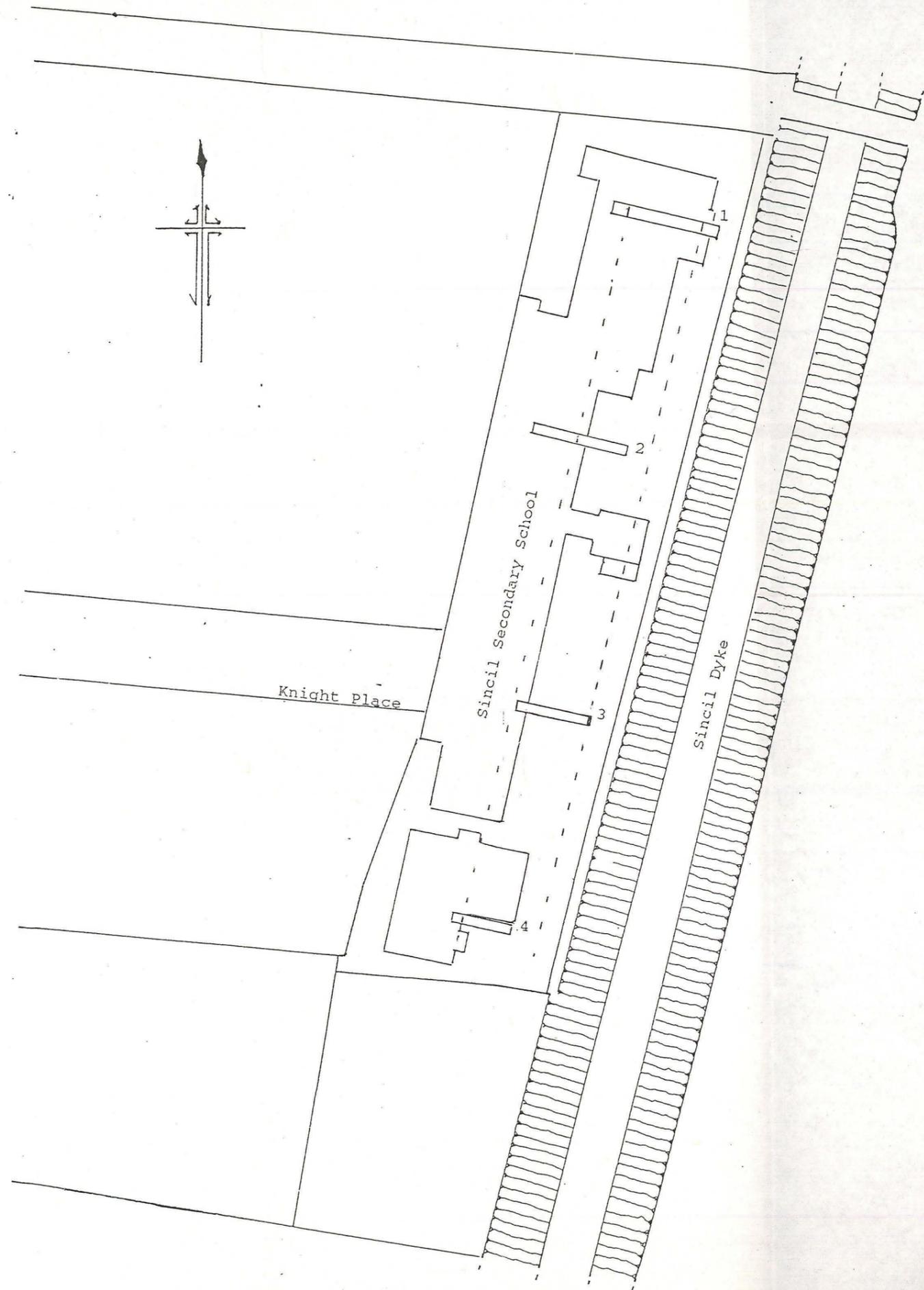
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fig.5



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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DESCRIPTION: T.T.L.		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 04.11.92

fig. 6



----- LINE OF POSSIBLE DRAINAGE FEATURE

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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fig.7